# The Congregational Way

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March, 1952

The Congregational Way

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# "HELP THOU MY UNBELIEF"

Archie H. Hook

Minister and Superintendent

We don't have much trouble with our faith; it's our lack of faith that concerns us, and rightly so. Recently a man in his forties, whom I have known since childhood, said to me, "I've got some questions on my mind that have been bothering me for years. If you can spare an hour or two I'll fire them at you." I told him to shoot, so he started.

"I believe in God. I have, all my life. I can't help it and anyone who isn't blind has to believe in God. But Jesus Christ? I can't believe in him as God. Sure he was a marvelous man and I only wish that I could live up to the standards which he taught, but all this stuff about his birth and resurrection—his changing water into wine—making people walk on the water—and all that truck! I wouldn't question that he healed a lot of people, but I don't understand how some folk can believe everything without any question so long as it is spoken or written in the name of religion. For at least fifteen years I have been asking myself questions about religion. I need some real answers. I honestly wish that I had a real Christian faith. I would like to believe in the church and be a part of it, but I can't, without more faith."

The next two hours flew. I don't know how much help he got but I know that my conscience was stabbed to the bleeding point. How many grown Christian men and women are teaching, preaching, and trying to survive on a Santa Claus faith?

Paul was talking about faith when he said, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things." As finite beings we must content ourselves to "know in part," but a man is entitled to a man-size faith and not an infant's portion. Let us live to the full a positive faith and then humbly pray with the disciple at Jesus' feet: "Lord I believe, help thou my unbelief."

# ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

## March 23, 1952

On Sunday morning, March 23, 1952, for the fourth successive year, members of churches in more than 29 denominations, will bring their blue (the color of mercy) envelopes to church for **One Great Hour of Sharing.** The cooperating churches are seeking more than $5 million for their relief and reconstruction ministries. The relief needs for which the Congregational Christians have assumed responsibility represent $400,000 of this total, and in order to realize this, each church should give its fullest cooperation.

Through **Our Christian World Mission** we have resettled 3,350 displaced persons by the end of 1951, but there are 400 of the "hard core" cases which must be resettled in 1952. We have sent food and clothing to Europe, Okinawa, Japan, Jamaica, and the Philippines, and we must send more for the need is great. In 1951, our Service Committee was at work in England, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Lebanon, and India, working to alleviate human distress regardless of race, class, creed, or nationality, and the cry of human need is still heard. We have ministered to the needs of service men and their families in various centers across the country. We have provided literature for chaplains to distribute. Different types of relief has been applied as circumstances differ, but personal service at the point of human need, with an eye to removing the cause as well as alleviating human suffering has been the purpose and goal of each effort.

The need for relief and reconstruction is kept real by every morning's headlines. We cannot do less, we must do more if we are to really share in the name of Christ.

What are the main areas of need?

1. War relief, as in Korea.
2. Aid to refugees as in Europe, Near East, and Asia.
3. Interchurch aid, support of ministers in the refugee churches, health program for church workers, theological scholarships, and other aids to strengthening the church life of Europe.
4. War services sponsored by Conferences and the Board of Home Missions in or near military establishments and defense industrial centers.

Special Programs Broadcast

The major networks are again cooperating in the program of One Great Hour of Sharing. During the month of March two programs in the series, "Let There Be Light" will be devoted to this emphasis. On Friday night, March 21 there will be a special broadcast in behalf of need. Consult your local "Program Guide" for the time in your community.

Bring your blue envelope on Sunday, March 23, and join in the One Great Hour of Sharing.

**People may believe that they are Christians and good church members if they keep comfortably up to the moral standards of their class; but the fact is that they cannot keep in close company with Jesus Christ unless with Him, they keep company with the poor and distressed. If the Saviour of the World were living in human form today, it is certain that his eyes and ears would be open and his whole mind alert to the cry of the needy. Can you and I do less?**

**Douglas Horton**

# News of the Churches

**RALSTON . . .**

Rev. R. K. Anderson writes that the work on the Ralston church is now completed. This redecoration includes new asphalt tile on the floors of all rooms, painting the walls, woodwork and pews, a new blue velour and silver dossal and a new pulpit Bible. The "Harmony Hunters" have also sent several boxes of clothing to Korea and the Ladies Aid has contributed articles for the Hendersons.

**PLYMOUTH, Tacoma . . .**

Rev. O. P. Shenefelt reports a special dedication service on February 17 of a public address system presented to the church by the Orpha Circle of the Women's Society. Another outstanding event was the Oyster Supper which was sponsored by the men of the church to raise money for some church repairs.

**PROSPECT . . .**

The Rev. Paul Donavan, Jr., began his ministry of the Prospect church on February 15. Prior to this, Mr. and Mrs. Donavan and family were serving the Community church at Forks.

**PASCO . . .**

As of March 1, the Rev. Paul D. Sutley will be the minister of this church. The Sutleys have been serving the church at Colfax since 1947 and prior to that were in the Wallace church.

**DEER PARK . . .**

Members and friends of the Open Door church regret the resignation of the Rev. Paul Dowty. The Dowtys assume their ministry of the church in Scappoose, Oregon, on March 1. We are sorry to have them leave our conference, for they have served our fellowship in many respects. Our good wishes are with them as they begin their work in Oregon.

**TONASKET . . .**

The Rev. Stanley Medhurst has resigned his pastorate effective March 1. Mr. Medhurst will return to Canada to continue his ministry.

**CHEWELAH . . .**

For the convenience of those wishing to ski and who still want to attend worship services, the Chewelah church arranged a special service during the season from 8:30 to 9:05. The response was good. The Rev. Lula Cassill also reports that Coffee Hour following the eleven o'clock services has been started, and provisions for nursery children during the service have been arranged.

**ABERDEEN . . .**

The Rev. Forrest E. Byers of Cresco, Iowa, has accepted a call to this church and will be arriving before Palm Sunday.

**ODESSA, German . . .**

The Rev. E. J. Eslinger has resigned this pastorate to become minister of the German church in Denver, Colorado.

## JOHN GIBSON ORDAINED

Ordination services for John H. Gibson were held at Plymouth Church, Seattle, on February 27. The Conference Committee on the Ministry recommended Mr. Gibson for ordination at its December meeting. The examining council of the Seattle Association met on February 4, and adjourned for the service of ordination on the 27th. The ordination sermon was given by Dr. Dwight Cart. Others participating in the service included Dr. A. H. Hook, Rev. B. C. Herrick, Rev. Robert Owen, Rev. John Carroll, Rev. Donald Baldwin, and Rev. L. H. Hildebrandt.

Mr. Gibson is a graduate of the Boston University School of Theology and the Graduate School. He was ordained a deacon in the Methodist church in 1949. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson and son came to Plymouth Church, Seattle, last August, with particular responsibilities for the educational program of the church, and have already made contributions to our fellowship.

### VERADALE . . .

The Pilgrim Messenger of the Vera church carries information concerning a program of cleaning, repairing and painting the church building. The work has been volunteer and the crews have cleaned and painted the kitchen, putting new linoleum on the work space and the serving counters. Plastering has been done in the furnace area, the ceiling of the church has been painted, improvements made in the nursery facilities, and other activities are projected.

Members were also pleased to have Harold Mielke receive the Boy Scout God and Country award. He is the first Scout of the church to complete the requirements.

Mrs. J. F. Giboney, active in the work of the Women's Fellowship, has recently returned from a visit to our mission centers in Mexico.

Rev. F. T. Sturtevant is minister of the Vera church.

### STEILACOOM . . .

The Oberlin church was recently presented with an oil painting done by artist Albert Leidecker. The title of the painting is "White Citadel." It is an idealized impression of the Steilacoom church, painted in deep cool blues and greens, relieved by the luminous colors of the setting sun reflected on the crenelated tower.

The Rev. George Schubert also reports progress on the building facilities including a sidewalk from the Main street entrance to the primary department; five new tables for the primary department; and a new automatic oil heating system which takes the place of four stoves.

**WINSLOW . . .**

Installation services for the Rev. Edward Ohrenstein were held on Sunday afternoon, February 10. Representatives from the churches of the area were present for the service, and greetings were given from the Seattle association, the Conference, and other churches of the island. Rev. B. C. Herrick and Rev. Robert Owen participated in the service as officers of the Seattle association, and Dr. Archie H. Hook gave the charge to the minister and the congregation.

**LEWISTON ORCHARDS . . .**

In memory of the late J. J. LeFebre the members of this church are giving a Hammond Organ, and hope to have the organ by Easter. Mrs. C. E. Wagner of this church also reports that the Couples Club is making a special effort to keep in touch with the service men from their church.

**CARNATION . . .**

The Junior Choir has proven one of the most popular activities among the boys and girls at Carnation. Limited to twenty by the capacity of the choir loft there has been a spirited competition for membership. The choir is now made up of twelve girls and eight boys. The Rev. Paul Van Horn has added choral reading and practice in speaking to the musical function of the choir.

* * *

The following churches have been added to our Club Membership:

**Dayton**
**Maltby**
**Mullan**
**Sylvan**
**Seattle, Columbia**
**Vancouver**

## IN MEMORIAM

The Rev. Herbert West, forme minister of the Oberlin Congrega tional Church, Steilacoom, died in his sleep on January 21, 1952. Prio to his retirement from the ministry in January, 1950, Mr. West hac served the Oberlin church for a quarter of a century, and for 26 years had served as chaplain a the Western State hospital at Steila coom.

Born in Crawfordsville, Ind., in 1875, Mr. West was a graduate o Wabash College and of Drake University. In 1902 he went with his brother to Singapore, where they started a school for boys at Penang Straits settlement, and Mr. West served as instructor for four years. He was ordained at the annua Methodist conference in Singapore in 1906. Returning to the West Coast in 1906 he served Methodist churches and with the Disciples o Christ prior to his ministry a Steilacoom.

Services were conducted by the Rev. O. P. Shenefelt and the Rev. Clarence L. Covell, both of Tacoma.

## MARCH EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | Pilgrim Fellowship rally, Olivet Church, Seattle |
| 7-9 | UCYM Conference, Westminster Church, Spokane |
| 10-16 | Walter Tong in Conference |
| 18 | Board of Directors<br>Student Work Committee |
| 19-26 | Dr. Hivale in Conference |
| 23-24 | Women's Area meetings, Mary Hurlbut, guest |
| 25 | Christian Education Committee |

# PAUL PRUITTS TO THE PHILIPPINES

Word of their appointment to the Philippine Islands was received by Paul and Mary Margaret Pruitt from the Midwinter meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. Paul began his ministry, after being graduated from Yale Divinity School, in Anacortes in 1948. He was married a year later and Mary Margaret joined in the activities of the three churches of Pilgrim, Summit Park, and Guemes. Both have been active in our Conference fellowship, with Mary Margaret at present serving as Spiritual Life chairman of the Women's Fellowship, and Paul serving on the Christian Education Committee and giving leadership in our Summer Conference program for several years.

Our American Board has special responsibility on the Island of Mindanao. Although the exact place has not been determined, the Pruitts will be sent to this island. The number of Protestant churches on Mindanao has greatly increased since the war. There has been a continuing migration of people from overcrowded northern islands to the fertile and sparcely settled regions of Mindanao. The opportunities in the Philippines are challenging. The republic is still in its infancy, and the next ten years will be crucial ones.

The work of the Pruitts has not been clearly defined as yet. Mary Margaret, a registered nurse, will help wherever possible in medical work. Since seven months old Janis Claire is a full-time responsibility, much of Mary Margaret's work may be in consultation services through clinics and classes. Paul will work closely with the local church where they live. He will also travel widely in the rural areas with the Filipino moderators, helping in Christian education and the training of pastors and evangelists.

"We feel that we are stepping into big shoes," the Pruitts write. "This is the area where Frank Laubach, Walter Tong, Frank Woodward, and other missionaries of their calibre did such fine work. But we feel that with the help of God and the prayerful support of our good friends in America, and we think particularly of friends in the Washington Conference, we can accomplish much for the Kingdom."

# Women's Fellowship

**Mary Hurlbut**

Teacher, counsellor and friend-at-large of the Ovimbundus of West Africa, Miss Mary Willard Hurlbut, Christian educator under the American Board in Elende, Africa, will be the guest speaker at the area meetings of The Women's Fellowship from March 23—April 4. She has charge of the educational work in the whole American Board mission area which includes some 237 village schools, 9 regional schools and the Pierce Memorial School at Elende.

The area meetings are under the direction of the association directors of the Women's Fellowship, and will bring together the women of our churches for a program of sharing and inspiration.

Mrs. W. H. Harris, President of the Fellowship, will be present at the meetings and share the highlights of the Midwinter meeting of the Missions Council and the State Presidents in Cleveland.

Announcements of the time and place of the meetings will be sent to churches.

## ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

Micronesia is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the landing of the missionaries and the work which is done under The American Board in the islands. Miss Eleanor Wilson, missionary in the area, has suggested that nothing would please the people more than to receive greetings from churches in this country. We are sure that your church would like to send a letter of greeting to these Christians. The letters should be addressed to:

Rev. John Sigrah
Trust Territory of the Pacific, USA
Kusaie, Eastern Caroline Islands

Special program materials on Micronesia and the Morning Star are found in the winter issue of "Envelope Series;" 15¢ from The Missions Council, 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.

Altogether our denomination has resettled nearly 3500 Displaced Persons. A few more than 400 are still to come, and expect to be in this country by the middle of March. In addition to these about 500 Ethnic Germans are coming for placement through our denomination. The going is rough just now with DP placements. There are some farm, domestic and professional family units, but a great many now arriving want factory work, skilled and unskilled. The need for housing is great.

If you yourself know a place for a family or an individual, please contact the Conference office or the Congregational Christian Service Committee in New York.

# News Briefs

During the weeks of February 10–24, many churches in the Conference participated in the Every Church Visitation program, designed to strengthen the fellowship of our churches and to challenge each group to more effective service. Laymen and ministers shared in presenting the emphasis of the inward and outward reach of the church.

Forty men shared in each of the training sessions, which were held at Westminster Church, Spokane, and Plymouth Church, Seattle. Assisting in the sessions were the Rev. Carl Calhoun, Bellingham; Dr. C. E. Ostrander, Seattle; Rev. Thomas McQueen, Spokane; Rev. George Halstead, Everett; and members of the Conference Staff. The Rev. George Halstead and the Rev. Paul Sutley served as co-chairmen of the program.

* * *

Young people of our fellowship will attend the United Christian Youth Conference at Westminster Church, Spokane, the weekend of March 7-8-9. The theme of the conference is "Thy Will Be Done." Dr. John Phillips of the College of Puget Sound will be the conference speaker. There will also be reports on The Call.

* * *

Dr. B. P. Hivale, President of Ahmednagar College in the Marathi Mission area of India, will be in our Conference from March 19–26, for various appointments.

**Walter Tong**

"In 1946 I saw the Philippine Islands launch forth as a nation. Other lands in which the Christian church is undertaking work are restively yearning for freedom. The need for missionary service was never greater than in this formative period in the building of these nations. Trained and consecrated youth are called as never before to help build understanding and brotherhood through the Christian church," says Rev. Walter C. Tong, Candidate Secretary of the American Board of Foreign Missions, Boston, who will be in our Conference the week of March 10–16. Mr. Tong wishes to interview persons interested in the mission field. Requests for his services should be addressed to the Conference office.

# P. F. Annual Meeting

**Wesley Hotchkiss**

With the challenge of "Dare We Be Christian?" the annual conference of Pilgrim Fellowship will convene at the Fauntleroy Congregational Church, Seattle, on April 18–20.

Dr. Wesley Hotchkiss of New York City, Associate Director of the Town and Country Department of our Board of Home Missions, will be guest leader of the conference. He comes to his present position from that of assistant in the Department of Sociology of Religion at Chicago Theological Seminary. He has served both rural and city areas, as well as doing social work in Chicago. His special interest is in helping churches study the problems of a declining population and changing community patterns.

## NEW AUDIO VISUALS

REBIRTH IN ROXBURY, sound filmstrip story of an interracial church; 20 minutes; free to CC's.

PARISH IN THE PACIFIC, filmstrip with script on our work in Micronesia; free to CC's.

ON COMMON GROUND, 16mm; story of a larger parish rural church; 27 minutes long; rental—color $8, b&w $6.

REPORT FROM MEXICO, Motion picture; Protestant work in Mexico including Congregational work at Guadalajara; 27 minutes; rental, color $8; b&w $6.

THE STREET, motion picture; inter-city church in a crowded neighborhood; 22 minutes; rental $6.

LATIN AMERICA IS BIG, sound filmstrip on current mission emphasis; 20 minutes; rental, $2.50.

SEEK YE FIRST, sound filmstrip on what is expected of church members; 20 minutes; rental $2.50.

THIS IS PALMIRA; color filmstrip on American Board work in Mexico, especially for children.

FAMILY LIFE AUDIO VISUALS, sound filmstrips; rentals, $2.00 each.

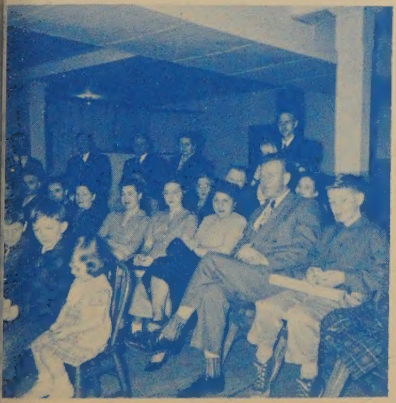
- No Easy Answer
- Built Upon the Rock
- For the Record
- A Harvest from Holidays

Materials may be secured from the Congregational depository, Audio Visual Center, 1205 North 45th, Seattle, Washington.

* * *

The Conference will begin with dinner on Friday and continue through Sunday morning. Young people of high school age especially are urged to attend. Officers for the year will be elected and delegates to the National Council will be chosen.

# FAMILY NIGHT AT KEYSTONE



The second year of Family Nights at Keystone church continues to grow in interest and value week by week. The Rev. Everett Hunt reports that for sometime their group had discussed the possibilities of more all-family participation in the church life and less breaking up into definite age groups.

After participating in the Family Camp a couple of summers, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Erickson and family and a few other interested families agreed to come together each Sunday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 and to take turns as whole families in conducting the program. From the very first this has been so popular and meaningful that only once or twice in the year and half has the Family Night been given up for anything.

The plan includes these considerations:

1. It is a weekly event from September to June.
2. It is limited strictly to one hour.
3. It is primarily for whole family groups.
4. Each member of the family, from the youngest to the oldest, takes some part.
5. The families take turns at conducting the program.
6. The hour is broken into a variety of activities and interests, including singing, Scripture reading, prayers, stories, musical selections, recordings, slides and filmstrips, games, very light refreshments and a friendship circle.

# *An Attitude of the Heart*

Maralta Osborne

Worship is an attitude of the heart and cannot be achieved by quick tricks or even by following elaborate directions. If you are to lead children in worship prepare yourself first. Attend the worship services of your church and take time for devotional reading and meditation. These things are your filling stations. One cannot give spiritual inspiration until he has received it.

Then, prepare your helpers. Ask all the adults who will be in your room at the time of your department worship service to attend the service and to participate in it just as the children are expected to do. This helps to develop a reverent atmosphere and to eliminate self-consciousness on the part of older children in the group.

The first part of each week reread the suggestions in your quarterly for the next Sunday's worship. Pilgrim Series materials are written by experts in the field and contain materials that have been used successfully with other groups, but it is up to you to put it across so change it or add to it as you feel you need to in order to appeal to the children in your group. Childrens worship services should be kept very brief because their attention span is brief, but if you need additional material on the same theme you might use stories, prayers or songs from the home book each quarter. This quarter's book is entitled, "We Would See Jesus." In Children's Religion, our monthly publication, you will find complete plans for worship services for children of various age groups and also additional stories and articles of value to teachers or parents.

Near the end of the week, perhap Friday, you will probably need t visit your department room to ar range your worship center and t see that all materials are read Plan to seat each child comfor ably, with his feet on the floor, an so that he can both hear and see.

As your service begins the chil dren see and feel your sincerity your love and your enthusiasm Don't fool yourself, the childre know if you are not sincere. Some time, when the children are in th mood for prayer, perhaps after a impressive meditation, story o prayer song, try asking them to pra silently and you suggest severa things for them to pray. Conclud with a brief prayer of your own o with a unison repetition of th Lord's Prayer.

Last, but not least, insist on a respectful, reverent attitude. Stop the first few people who are dis orderly and then, if you keep things at all interesting, you may have no more trouble.

"Opening exercises" do not add to the religious growth of children They are exactly what the words imply, "exercises" whose function is merely to "Open" something Thoughtful worship experiences deepens a child's religious experi ence. The teacher cannot force a worship experience, but she can study the elements which may bring it about and let them guide her in the materials she selects and the procedure which she follows.

# ANNUAL MEETING

of the

# WASHINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

May 6-7-8, 1952

**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SEATTLE**

## GUEST LEADERS

**ev. James F. McKinley, Congregational Christian educator under The American Board in the Philippines; Dean of the College of Theology at Silliman University, Dumaguete.**

**ev. Philip M. Widenhouse of New ork City, General Secretary of the merican Missionary Association, oard of Home Missions.**

**Rev. Wofford C. Timmons of New York City, Director of the Department of Evangelism, Board of Home Missions.**

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